

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A digital image reading apparatus comprising:
 - reading means for optically reading an image of a document to output digital image data;
 - 10 first setting means for setting a reading rate in a given scanning direction to a desired value;
 - 15 second setting means for setting parameters related to reading the image of the document based on communication with an external apparatus; and computation means for computing a total amount of the image data from the parameters,
 - 20 wherein the first setting means sets the reading rate based on the total amount of the image data.

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the first setting means resets the reading
rate to a value higher than a value to which the
reading rate is set when the total amount of the
5 image data is smaller than a storage capacity of the
image memory.

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3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising transfer means for transferring
the image data from the image memory to the external
apparatus by communication means.

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4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3,
20 wherein IEEE 1394 is employed as the communication
means.

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5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3,
wherein SCSI is employed as the communication means.

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6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said first setting means sets the reading
rate by controlling a stepping motor involved in
10 scanning in the given scanning direction.

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15 7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the first setting means primarily sets the
reading rate on the basis of an available capacity of
said image memory.

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25 8. A digital image reading apparatus
comprising:
an optical reader optically reading an image

of a document to output digital image data;
a memory temporarily storing the image data
from the optical reader; and
a controller computing a total amount of the
image data of the document and controlling a reading
rate in a given scanning direction on the basis of
the total amount of the image data stored in the
memory.

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